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E.O. 12065: XDS-4 2/8/00 (CHAPLIN, MAXWELL) OR-M
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJECT: (S) SOME AUGUST 1979 DISAPPEARANCES REAPPEAR

1. (S - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. THE PARENTS OF FERNANDO RUBEN BRODSKY, WHO DISAPPEARED LAST AUGUST, CONFIRMED TO US JANUARY 7 THAT THEY HAVE BEEN IN WEEKLY PHONE CONTACT WITH HIM SINCE DECEMBER 31. THE BRODSKYS ALSO STATE THAT FOUR OTHER PEOPLE WHO DISAPPEARED IN AUGUST HAVE ALSO BEEN IN CONTACT BY PHONE WITH THEIR FAMILIES FROM THEIR PLACE OF DETENTION: PABLO LEPISCOPO; JOSE HASSAN; JOSEFINA VILLAFLO (JOSEFINA'S (JOSE'S WIFE); AND ELSA MARTINEZ DE VILLAFLO (JOSEFINA'S SISTER-IN-LAW.) IN ADDITION TO THE TWO WOMEN HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO VISIT THEIR CHILDREN AT THEIR GRANDPARENTS' HOME.. ACCORDING TO THE BRODSKYS, THEY HAVE BEEN TOLD BY THEIR SON AND BY HIS CAPTORS THAT HE IS UNDERGOING "REHABILITATION TO REJOIN SOCIETY" AND WILL, PERHAPS, BE ALLOWED TO VISIT HIS PARENTS, ALLEGEDLY IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. THE BRODSKYS SAY THAT THE FAMILIES OF THE OTHERFOUR HAVE BEEN GIVEN A SIMILAR MESSAGE (THE TWO WOMEN REPORTEDLY HAVE A FULL TIME SOCIAL WORKER LIVING WITH THEM TO ASSIST IN THEIR REHABILITATION.) THE FAMILIES HAVE ALSO BEEN ADVISED BY THE PEOPLE HOLDING THEM THAT THEY

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SHOULD SUSPEND ALL LEGAL EFFORTS TO HAVE THEIR RELATIVES FREED AND CONTACT NO ONE ABOUT THE "REAPPEARANCE".

3. FOLLOWING THE 11 DISAPPEARANCES IN AUGUST WE RECEIVED CONFLICTING REPORTS ABOUT THEIR FATE. SOME SOURCES SUGGESTED THEY HAD ALL BEEN KILLED. OTHERS SAID THAT SOME OF THEM MIGHT REMAIN ALIVE. THEN GENERAL VIOLA, SHORTLY BEFORE HIS RETIREMENT TOLD THE AMBASSADOR THAT SOME OF THE AUGUST DISAPPEARED MIGHT REAPPEAR. HE ALSO MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE HARD CORE CASES IN AUGUST WOULD NOT BE AMONG THESE.

4. THE FIVE PEOPLE WHO HAVE REAPPEARED IN THIS FASHION WERE, WE BELIEVE, PICKED UP AS THE RESULT OF A SECURITY FORCE OPERATION AGAINST A CELL OF THE FAP, A SMALL TERRORIST GROUP. SOME ACCOUNTS SUGGEST THAT THIS FAP CELL HAD GONE UNDERGROUND. OTHERS STATE THAT IT HAD BEEN DISBANDED. TWO OTHER PEOPLE WHO WERE ARRESTED AS PART OF THIS ANTI-FAP OPERATION: RAIMUNDO VILLAFLO AND JUAN CHIARVALLE ARE STILL MISSING AND WE PRESUME DEAD.

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Declassified Case: LX= 506 Date: 06-06-2013

5. JUST LAST WEEK WE WERE TOLD BY A USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCE OF THE EXISTENCE OF A "REHABILITATION CENTER" FOR FORMER TERRORISTS IN THE BUENOS AIRES AREA. ACCORDING TO RELIABLE HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE SOME THIRTY TO FORTY CAPTURED AND "TURNED" TERRORISTS ARE HELD IN THIS CENTER. THE INMATES REGULARLY VISIT THEIR FAMILIES, AND SOME OF THEM MAY EVEN WORK ON THE OUTSIDE. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCE MEMBERS OF THE IAHRG WERE TAKEN BY THE GOA TO VISIT THIS CENTER IN SEPTEMBER ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE IAHRG WOULD

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KEEP THE VISIT CONFIDENTIAL.

6. THE BRODSKYS WANT NO PUBLICITY OF THEIR CASE. THEY, AND EVEN MORE, THE FAMILIES OF THE OTHER DETAINEES, ARE TERRIBLY SCARED THAT A WRONG STEP MIGHT HAVE DISASTEROUS CONSEQUENCES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE BRODSKYS TOLD US THAT IF WE THOUGHT THERE WAS SOME PRODUCTIVE WAY WE COULD INVOLVE OURSELVES IN THIS CASE THEY WOULD WELCOME IT. THIS LATTER ISSUE IS ONE WHICH WE ARE NOW EXAMINING. OBVIOUSLY, THE REPORTED EXISTENCE OF THE REHABILITATION CENTER, THE FACT THAT FIVE OF THE AUGUST DISAPPEAREDS ARE ALIVE--AND MOST ESPECIALLY--THE USG'S KNOWLEDGE OF THESE ELEMENTS ARE PARTICULARLY SENSITIVE SUBJECTS. WE ALSO UNDERLINE THAT THUS FAR ONLY THE BRODSKYS FROM AMONG THE FIVE AUGUST REAPPEARANCES AND NO ONE FROM AMONG THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE RELATIVES AT THE REPORTED REHABILITATION CENTER HAVE APPROACHED THIS EMBASSY FOR ASSISTANCE, PREFERING A PRUDENT SILENCE.

7. FINALLY, REGARDING "VISITING DISAPPEARED", WE HEARD INDIRECTLY BUT RELIABLY OF AN INTERESTING DEVELOPMENT CONCERNING A YOUNG WOMAN WHO WAS HELD FOR OVER A YEAR BY THE SECURITY FORCES BUT ALLOWED TO VISIT HER FAMILY REGULARLY. SHE WAS RELEASED EARLY LAST YEAR AND RETURNED TO HER UNIVERSITY STUDIES IN BUENOS AIRES. RECENTLY SHE RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE MILITARY OFFICER WHO ESCORTED DURING THOSE VISITS AND WAS IN CHARGE OF HER DETENTION. THE OFFICER STATED THAT "DUE TO THINGS THAT WERE GOING TO BE PUBLISHED ABROAD SOON I WILL HAVE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY. I WILL NO LONGER BE ABLE TO PROTECT YOU. YOU SHOULD LEAVE THE COUNTRY TOO." WE CANNOT CLARIFY WHAT PRECIPITATED THIS PHONE CALL FROM THE OFFICER. HOWEVER, HIS JUDGMENT THAT THE YOUNG GIRL HAD TO RELY ON HIS PERSONAL PROTECTION IS A MEASURE OF HOW FRAGILE IS THE PROGRESS MADE HERE ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE FACE OF THE CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF HARDLINE,

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UNREPENTANT ELEMENTS IN THE SECURITY FORCES.
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